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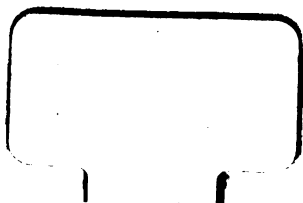
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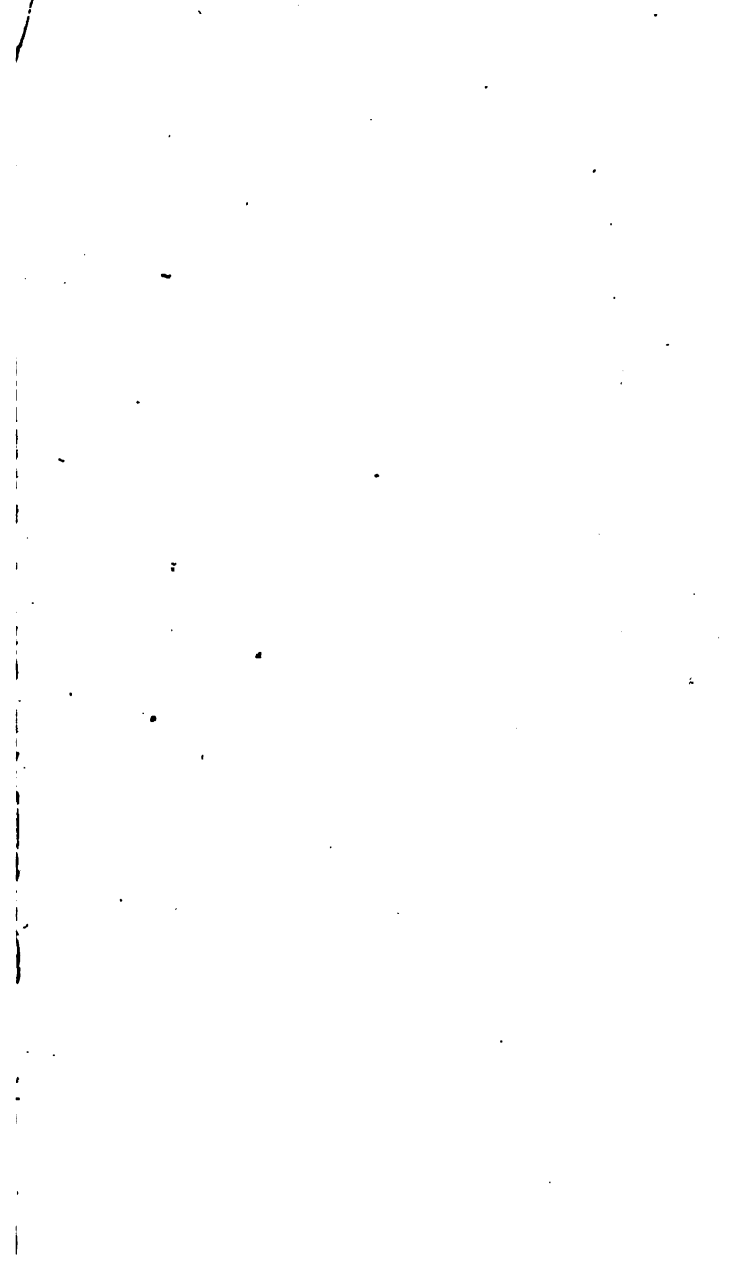
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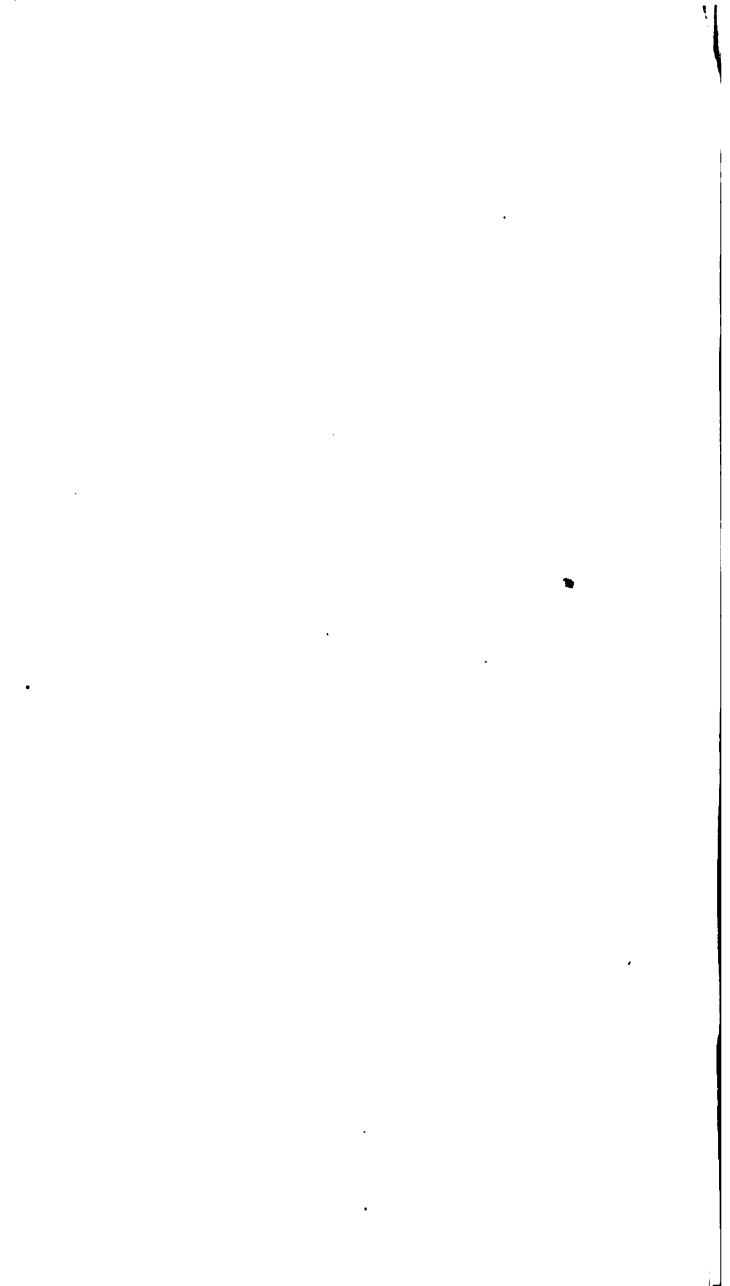
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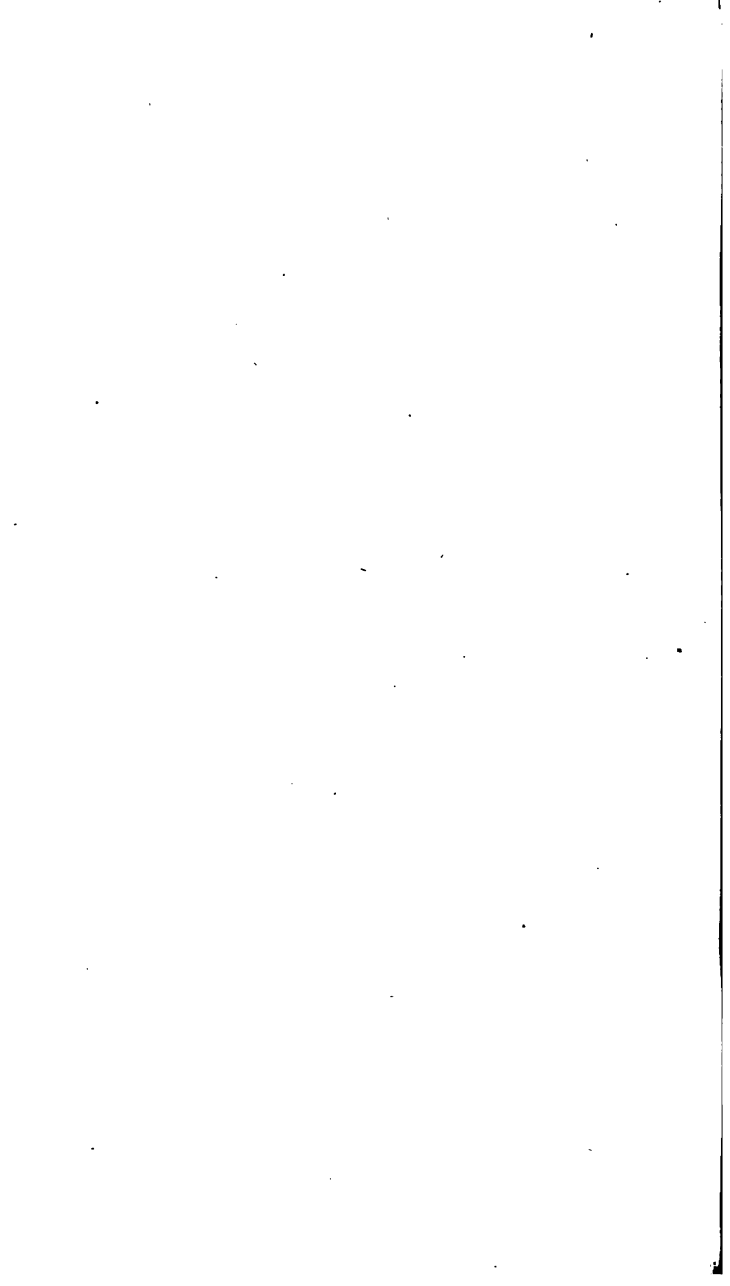
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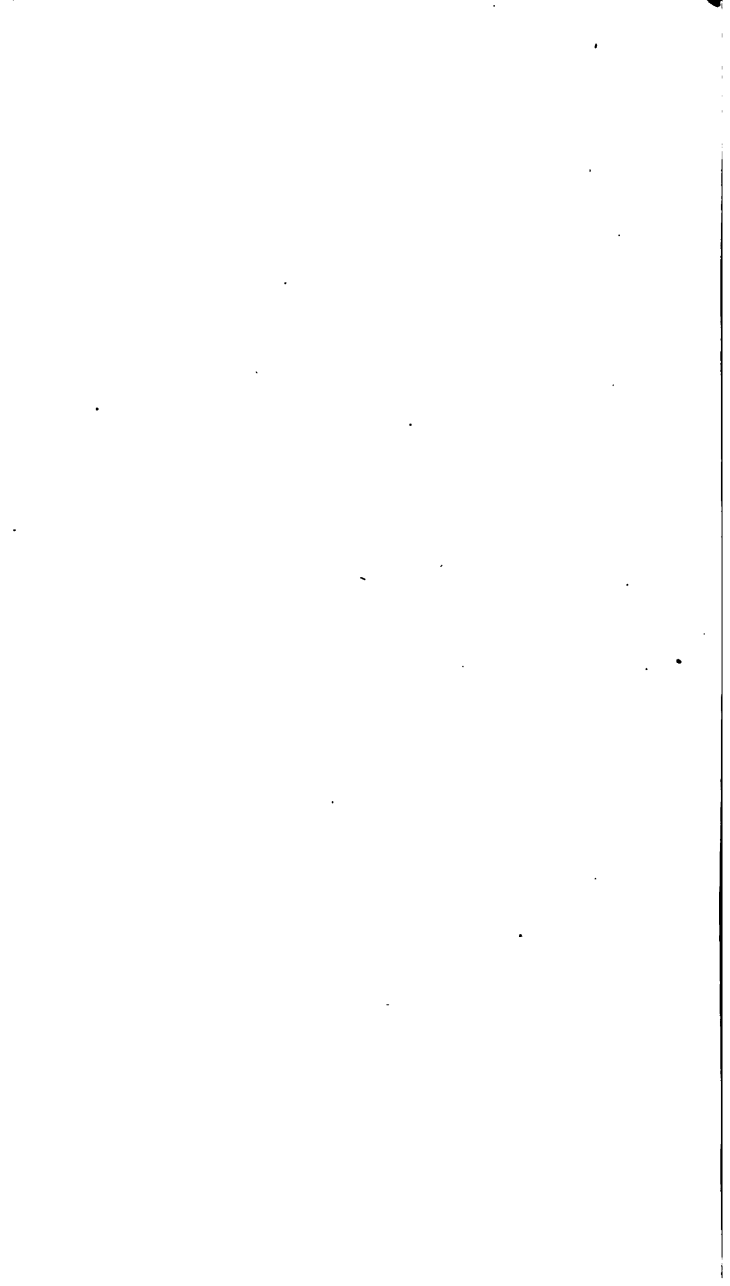






THE
BUCKINGHAM LETTERS,
&c.





I.

Your faithful servant
and servant
G. B. Kingman

II.

Your most
humble slave
and dog
John

Fac-simile Signatures of the Duke of Buckingham.

LETTERS

OF THE

DUKE AND DUCHESS

OF

BUCKINGHAM,

CHIEFLY ADDRESSED TO

KING JAMES I. OF ENGLAND.

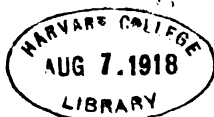
EDINBURGH :

THOMAS G. STEVENSON,

87, PRINCES STREET,

MDCCCXXXIV.

B1-1852.35.17



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William Endicott, Jr.*


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INTRODUCTORY NOTICE.

 O some, perhaps, there may be little interest in private memorials of a man, who, for an elevation to power, second to that of few Statesmen, indeed, of few Kings, a Europe, was indebted to nothing but the attractiveness of his person, and the accidents which brought this quality within the observation of a Monarch, in whose eyes it seems to have been the greatest of human endowments. Such memorials are certainly not so interesting or instructive, as those which develope the private opinions and domestic manners of men, who have ornamented the world by their genius, or laid it under a lasting debt of gratitude by their integrity or philanthropy. Yet, did it serve no other purpose but that of gratifying the curiosity which such moral anomalies create, there would be no inconsiderable interest in the confidential communications betwixt that favourite and that patron, of whom the former knew no use of power, but the adoption of that insolence which it protects, and its instrumentality in gratifying his desires at the expense of the community; while the latter, rapacious, cold-hearted, insolent, and even cruel to others, was, to his minion, a perpetually

flowing fountain of generosity and affection. As to the *utility* of such documents, it is submitted, that the causes of those vices or follies of public men which have affected the happiness of States, cannot be too accurately investigated for the use of posterity. Holding this opinion, and struck with the characteristics of the style and matter of the manuscripts, the Editor was induced to print, for the use of persons interested in historical inquiries, the whole of a collection of letters, of which some, (as shall be explained) previously published in a rather imperfect form, had attracted some attention.

To enter on a detail of the general life and character of a person, whose power, wealth, and vices, have made him so prominent, and whose form so frequently and in so many varied garbs of adventure, crosses the page of history, would, on the present occasion, be useless, as much that can be said, must be but a repetition from well-known publications. But there is one alleged feature of the connection of James and his favourite already partly associated with the matter contained in these letters, a short inquiry into which may, in a work of limited circulation, serve all useful purposes, while its nature would render it totally unfit for one of a more popular description.

Mrs. Macaulay, in language of which the meaning cannot be misunderstood, in speaking of the downfall of Somerset, says "James began to waver in his affections, he had cast a longing eye towards the

captivating attractions of George Villiers; but, either ashamed of his levity, or fond to an uncommon degree of dissimulation, he affected a more than usual regard to Somerset.”* On the subject of Somerset’s secret, with the threat of exposing which, he overawed the King, Harris remarks, “some have thought the discovery dreaded, was the manner of Prince Henry’s death, which was believed to have been by poison; but if I may be allowed to offer a conjecture, for I deem it no more, it was the revealing of *that* vice to which James seems to have been addicted, that was the object of his fear;”† and Sir Walter Scott, in a note to Somers’s Tracts, says, “The fatal secret is by some supposed to refer to the death of Prince Henry; but a cause, yet more flagitious, will occur to those who have remarked certain passages in the Letters between the King and Buckingham, published by the late Lord Hailes.”‡ Other historians concur in this opinion.

After a careful examination of the Letters which are now, in their original purity, submitted to critical consideration, the Editor has come to the conclusion, that presuming the deduction so formed to have been established by other evidence, many passages in the letters might be aptly enough construed to bear a passing reference to the connection of the worthy correspondents. Taken by themselves, however, they

* Hist. I, 91.

† Life of Jas. I. 205.

‡ II, 488.

seem to evince no more than that natural familiarity of gross intellects which men whose rank in life attracts the eye of the world to their private habits, however naturally inclined to such relaxations, generally suppress, or, at least, avoid committing to the dangerous embodiment of writing, unless inveterate habit or the contaminated manners of the period, prevent them from dreaming that their effusions will ever be criticised by persons who are not kindred spirits. These morsels are, indeed, not unparalleled by some choice figures of rhetoric, addressed by Charles II to the Duchess of Orleans, which Sir John Dalrymple, with much simplicity, thought such as "could hardly have been expected from a royal hand;" and, on the whole, are not uncharacteristic of the friendship of the Solomon whose "walke was euer circular, his fingers euer in that valke, fidling about his cod peece," and who "neuer washt his hands, onlie rubb'd his fingers' ends slightly vith the vett end of a napkin."*

But whether these expressions, when associated with other matter, constitute proof of the accusation, or tend to make its truth more likely, is a different question; and as the subject is one of which an examination should be entered on as seldom as possible in works of general circulation, the Editor will perhaps be excused for giving along with the Letters a cursory view of the external evidence.

* Balf. An. II, 108-9.

As to the argument which may be founded on the conduct of the previous favourite, the terror of James that some fearful disclosure should be made by Somerset, is presumable from Lord Bacon's celebrated letters, and is thus distinctly narrated by Weldon:—
“ And now, for the last act, enters Somerset himself on the stage, who (being told, as the manner is, by the Lieutenant, that he must provide to go next day to his tryal), did absolutely refuse it, and said they should carry him in his bed: That the King had assured him he should not come to any tryal, neither durst the King bring him to tryal.” These expressions, by themselves, can be rated at nothing beyond the impatient effervescence of a childish mind, suddenly hurled from greatness to degradation, and are such as Lieutenants of Towers, Turnkeys, and others in authority over criminals, are apt to pay little regard to. But the words which the Lieutenant heard, produced so much effect, that it seems probable he heard more than he has repeated. “ This was in an high strain,” he continues, “ and in a language not well understood, by George Moore, (Lieutenant in Elwaies his room,) that made Moore quiver and shake, and however he was accounted a wise man, yet he was neer at his wit's end.” What he heard was sufficient to induce Moore to go to Greenwich, with intent to disturb his sacred Majesty, at 12 o'clock at night,—no seasonable hour at that period; and he is observed by one of the grooms

“ bounsing at the back stayres as if mad.” He procured admission, and having given his information, “ the King falls into a passion of tears,—on my soul, Moore, I wot not what to do,—thou art a wise man, help me in this great straight, and thou shalt find thou dost it for a thankful master, with other sad expressions. Moore leaves the King in that passion, but assures him he will prove the utmost of his wit to serve His Majesty, and was really rewarded with a suit to him worth £1,500.” Weldon then relates the manner in which Somerset was persuaded to undergo the formality of a trial, with men placed by his side, prepared with clokes, to carry him away “ hoodwinked,” in case he should “ any way fly out on the King ;” nor did the conduct of Royalty, during this apparently critical ceremony, escape the observation of the satirical annalist. “ But who had seen the King’s restless motion all that day, sending to every boat he sees landing at the Bridge, cursing every one that came without tidings, would have easily judged all was not right, and there had been some grounds for Somerset’s boldness ; but, at last, bringing him word he was condemned, and the passages, all was quiet.”* This tale, with all its distinctness, coming from one who, if he was certainly more of a satirist than a libeller, subjected himself to be received as a party writer, required

* Court and Character of King James, (Smeeton’s Edition), 36-7.

confirmation. This confirmation it has accordingly received, from certain letters of King James to Moore, lately brought to light. As some may be able to trace in passages of these, a clue to interpret the secret, which the present writer cannot boast of perceiving, and as they afford a curious illustration of King James's almost ridiculous selfishness, and want of what is called public virtue, one or two extracts may be excused.

“ Goode Sir George, I ame extreamelie sorie that youre unfortunate prisoner turnis all the grette caire I have of him not onlie against himselfe, but against me also, as farre as he can. I can not blame you, that ye can not conjecture quhat this may be, for God knoweis it is only a trikke of his ydle braine, hoaping thairby to shifte his tryall, but it is easie to be seene, that he wolde threaten me, with laying an aspersion upon me of being in some sort accessorie to his cryme. * * *

“ Goode Sir George, although I feare that the laste message I sent to your unfortunate prisoner shall not take the effecte I wishe it shoulde, yett I cannot leave of to use all meanes possible to move him to doe that quhiche is both most honorable for me and his owin best. Ye shall thairfore give him assurance in my name, that if he will yett before his tryall confesse cleerelie unto the Commissionars his guiltienesse of this fact, I will not onlie performe quhat I promised by my last messenger, both towards him and his wyfe, but I will enlarge it, according to the phrase of the

civill lawe, *quod gratiæ sunt amplianda*. I mean not that he shall confesse if he be innocent, but y^e knowe how evill lyklie that is ; and of youre selfe y^e maye dispute with him quhat shoulde meane his confidence nou to endure a tryall, quhen, as he remembers, that this last winter he confessed to the Cheef Justice that his cause was so evill lykelie, as he knew no jurie coulde quite him, assure him that I protest upon my honour, my ende in this is, for his and his wyfe's goode. Ye will doe well lykewayes, of youre selfe, to cast out unto him, that ye feare his wyfe shall pleade weakelie for his innocencie, and that ye finde the Commissioners have, ye know not how, some secrete assurance, that in the ende she will confesse of him, but this must onlie be as from yourselfe ; and thairfore, ye muste not lette him knowe that I have written unto you, but onlie that I sent you private worde to deliver him this message. Lette none living know of this ; and if it take goode effect, move him to sende in haiste for the Commissioners to give thaim satisfaction ; but if he remaine obstinate, I desyre not that ye shoulde trouble me with an answer, for it is to no ende, and no newis is better than evill newis, and so fair well, and God blesse your labours."*

The question now occurs, what *was* the secret ? To such a circumstance, as that already alluded to, in quotations from authors of eminence, the Editor, with

* *Archæologia*, xviii, 355-7.

ference, does not think it applies. It is the unfortunate characteristic of the crime supposed, that, with its progress, the society in which it is prevalent becomes callous to its publicity, to a much greater extent, than is ever exercised towards those crimes which tend more directly to the injury of individuals, and against which, even in the worst times, every man feels it his personal interest to arm himself. The crime, as shall be shewn, *was* prevalent at the period. If James committed it, he took little care to conceal certain proceedings by which he would have gratuitously led to his own detection. From the whole, then, it is argued, that an accusation, which might perhaps have been rebutted, would not have so materially shaken the royal equanimity. But it will be observable from the passages quoted, that what James feared, was not so much exposure, as personal danger, and the whole has the aspect of being rather a state than a private secret. In connection with this, it will be recollected by those conversant with the history of the period, that the murder of Overbury is distinctly shewn to have had its cause, not in the petty opposition he offered to the marriage of Somerset with the Countess of Essex, but to the existence of some dark secret, of which the murderer and his victim were the mutual depositaries. The emphatic allusion to "the fruits of common secrets, common danger," and the threat, "Well, all this vacation I have written the story betwixt you and me; how

I have lost my friends for your sake ; what hazard have run ; what secrets have passed betwixt us," contained in Overbury's letter to Somerset, with the statement of the Attorney-General Bacon, that " the root of his hate was that which cost many a man's life, that is, fear of discovering secrets," will be easily remembered.* It will have been observed, from the quotations from Moore's Letters, that the King expressed his fear to be, lest Somerset should accuse him of being accessory to the murder. If he was justly accused of being accessory to the murder, he must have been so, because he knew the secret which cost the unhappy man his life ; and hence it would appear that the secret which was fatal to Overbury, and which preserved the life of his murderer, were one and the same, and connected with some state intrigue. The death of Prince Henry has been urged by some historians, but many of the best informed writers consider it proved from the report of the physicians, that the Prince died of a typhus fever unskilfully treated, —a disease which will carry off the heir of a throne viewed with jealousy by his father, and at enmity with the reigning favourite, as well as any other man. Welwood, whose professional knowledge must have enabled him to judge, and Hallam, one of the most accurate weighers of historical testimony, concur in this opinion. Seeing no good ground for supporting either of these criminal theories, it appears to the

* *Vide* State Trials ii, 966, &c.

Editor, that the solution of the great secret might more naturally be found in some attempt against the liberty of the country, or the protestant religion ; but of what particular description, those who shall name the man in the iron mask, or the author of Junius, will be best fitted to discover.

So much for a circumstance connected with the history of *one* favourite, which has been presumed, when taken in connection with the correspondence of *another*, to throw light on the cause which led to the elevation of both. The next branch of the evidence submitted consists of the accusations and remarks, of the annalists of the period. Osborn says, " Now no other reason appeared for their [the favourites'] choice, but handsomeness, so the love the King shewed was as amorously conveyed, as if he had mistaken their sex and thought them ladies. Which I have seen *Somerset* and *Buckingham* labour to resemble in the effeminateness of their dressings ; though, in wild looks and wanton gestures, they exceeded any part of womankind my conversation did ever cope withal. Nor was his love, or what else posterity will please to call it, (who must be the judges of all that history shall inform,) carried on with a discretion sufficient to cover a less scandalous behaviour ; for the King's kissing them after so lascivious a mode in publick, and upon the theatre, as it were, of the world, prompted many to imagine some things done in the tyring-house that exceed my expressions, no less than they do my experience ; and, therefore,

left floating upon the waves of conjecture, which had, in my hearing, tossed them from one side to another. "I have heard that Sir *Henry Rich*, since *Earl of Holland*, and some others, refused his Majesty's favour upon those conditions they subscribed to, who filled that place in his affection.—*Rich* losing that opportunity his curious face and complexion afforded him, by turning aside, and spitting after the King had slabber'd his mouth."*

The next quotation is from a political tract of the time, the high statesmanlike severity of which would not have disgraced the *Craftsman*, or even political periodicals of a still later period; "and though every day of his raigne bring forth a new prodigie to grieve all that are honest, and astonish all that are wise, yet shall he not neede to take either the lesse drink when he goes to bed, or the more thought when he riseth. He may solace himself as securely in his bed-chamber as the grand signor in his seraglio: have Lords Spirituall for his mates,—Lords Temporall for his eunuchs, and whom he will for his *incubus*. There may he kisse his minions without shame, and make his groomes his companions, without danger; who, because they are acquainted with his secret sins, assume to themselves as much power and respect as Catholick princes use to give their confessors."† *Clarendon*,—whose observation, however, it would be

* *Osborn's Works*, (Edit. 1722), II. 158.

† *Tom Tell-Truth*; or a free discourse, touching the manners of the time,—*Somers*, Tr. II, 488.

unfair to take, as containing more than the mere literal meaning,—speaking of the rise of Buckingham, and of his personal attractions, says, he “ found very little difficulty in rendering himself gracious to the King, whose nature and disposition was very flowing in affection towards persons so adorned.”* Another writer, who was a very acute observer of nature, and who, in conforming his observations to the prudence of an expectant of preferment, seldom made a statement about the follies or vices of the period which did not contain a hidden meaning, says,—“ I pray the reader to consider the sweatness of this King’s nature, (for I ascribe it to that cause), that from the time he was fourteen years old, and no more, that is, when the Lord *Aubigny* came into Scotland out of France to visit him, even then he began, and with that noble personage, to clasp some one *Gratioso* in the embraces of his great love, above all others, who was unto him as a *Parelius* ; that is, when the sun finds a cloud so fit to be illustrated by his beams, that it looks almost like another sun. At this time, upon which my pen drops, the Marquis of Buckingham was the *Parelius*.”†

These are characteristic specimens of notices, of which many might be found scattered here and there.‡

* Hist. I, 38.

† Hacket’s Life of Williams, 39.

‡ Some have considered the following, (first printed by Lord Hailes, and here given from the Original in the same Collection

Another source of information on this subject, which, though it cannot be properly termed part of the evidence, may be of use in considering its weight, is, the accounts we have of the manners of the court, in as far as respects the peculiarity in question. Few people conversant with the history of James's Court can fail to remark, that the accusation was levelled against, and repelled by the courtiers of the age with a lightness more characteristic of a fashionable, than of what is conceived a degrading vice. To quote

with the Buckingham Letters), to have reference to the habits of King James :—

“ Honest Ned,—I know yee love yor master dearly, and his pleasures, wch makes me put you in trust wth this busines, myself not being able to stay in the toun so late. I pray you, therefore, as soone as it grows dark, sayle not to send the close cart to Basingborn for the speckled sow yee saw the King take such liking unto this day, and let her be privately brought to the cockpit, and deliver'd to the man of the wardrope, by the same token that I chid him for letting the other beasts goe carelesly into the garden while it was day, and he will presently receive her into his charge : some may think this a jest, but I assure you it is a matter of trust and confidence ; and so assuring myself of yor secret and careful performance of it, I rest

Yor affectionate frend,

PEMBROKE.

To my most assured frend

Sr EDWARD ZOUCH, Knight.

Some have considered that this Letter should be taken figuratively ; James, however, was not partial to female society. Lord Hailes takes it literally, and censures the statesman-craft of making the whims of Sovereigns matters of importance,—he is probably right.

many instances of this would be unnecessary, but one singular accusation against that great ornament of the age, whose baseness was nearly equal in greatness to the majesty of his intellect, the Editor cannot omit. The accusation is made by Sir Simonds D'Ewes, the well-known chronicler of Parliament, against Lord Bacon. Having mentioned the official crimes of the great Chancellor, he continues, "his most abominable and darling sin, I should rather bury in silence than mention it, were it not a most admirable instance how men are enslaved by wickedness, and held captive by the Devil; for whereas, presently upon his censure at this time, his ambition was moderated, his pride humbled, and the means of his former injustice and corruption removed, yet would he not relinquish the practice of his most horrible and secret sin of sodomy, keeping still one Godrich, a very effeminated youth, to be his catamite and bed-fellow, although he had discharged the most of his other household servants, which was the more to be admired, because men generally, after his fall, began to discourse of that his unnatural crime, which he had practised many years, deserting the bed of his lady, which he accounted, as the Italians and Turks do, a poor and mean pleasure, in respect of the other: and it was thought by some that he should have been tried at the bar of justice for it, and have satisfied the law, most severe against that horribel villany,

with the price of his blood.”* This is an accusation by one whose writings are considered historical authority; and if it should happen to be false with regard to the individual, that it should be made, is a convincing proof of what sins were in that age venial. A remarkable passage in the Memoirs of Colonel Hutchinson, is an apt comment on such a text. “The face of the court was much chang’d in the change of the King; for King Charles was temperate, chaste, and serious; so that the fooles and bawds, mimicks and catamites, of the former court, grew out of fashion; and the nobility and courtiers, who did not quite abandon their debosheries, had yet that reverence to the King, to retire into corners to practise them.”† It is evident from the context, that the word particularly relating to the present subject, is to be taken in its more physical acceptation.

Such is a general view of the evidence, on a historical question which few may deem of sufficient importance to have been investigated. On a general view of the whole, while it would appear that the charge brought forward by our illustrious novelist and others, cannot be considered as historically proved, there are sufficient grounds for suspicion, which

* Extracts from the Journal of Sir Simond D'Ewes, Biblioth. Topog. Brit. vi, 26.

† Mrs. Hutchinson's Memoirs, p. 65.

have been amply provided by the conduct of the persons themselves; and if any one should now believe that the crime in question absolutely *was* committed, it may be said, that, if the Monarch and his minions were innocent of it, posterity has only visited on their memories those criminal follies, which merited punishment as they occurred.

It will be observed, that many of the papers in this Collection bear reference to the Spanish match. A subject on which so much matter has been provided by Rushworth, Howell, Clarendon, Hailes, Hardwicke, Nichols, the Editor of the *Cubala*, and others, is too extensive for a brief introductory notice. A few documents, however, connected with it, which have been found in the Collection of Papers from which the Buckingham Letters are extracted, not having been, so far as the Editor knows, hitherto published, are given in an Appendix.

The Letters now printed are extracted from the curious and important Papers, collected by that diligent archæologist Sir James Balfour of Denmylne, which have been for more than a century deposited in the Advocates' Library. The general authenticity of this Collection has remained undoubted. Those now extracted bear all the appearance of having been the original letters sent to the King. To presume them to be copies, would be to presuppose an amount of labour in giving them the appearance of genuineness, for which it would be difficult to assign a reason. The Editor makes this remark, because he has no

other evidence of their authenticity than their appearance, not having seen any other letters attributed to the Duke.* That the purpose of comparison may, to a certain extent, be achieved by those who have an opportunity of consulting such other letters, two autographs are given, one of the Duke's usual subscription, the other of the *sobriquet* bestowed on him by James, from his supposed (*outward*) similarity to the Apostle Stephen. It will be remarked, that the writer seems to have been in a state of uncertainty as to the proper spelling. As the great Duke did not condescend to dates, a chronological arrangement of a set of letters, many of which are so obscure in their allusions, was impossible, and no other arrangement has been attempted, except that of keeping all the letters referring to state matters in juxtaposition. Great care has been taken to copy from the original *literatim*, that the reader may have the advantage of all the mistakes and mis-spellings which his Sacred Majesty had to peruse in the writings of his prime minister. The Editor is sorry that printing is unable to convey any conception of the blotting, the interlineation, the unsteady circumflexities which seem to have been written after supper, the familiar

* The Editor has heard that some deposited in another place, were borrowed by a celebrated female historian, who, after having remarked on their indecency, failed to return them, probably feeling that it would be unsafe to leave such improper writings in the way of weaker minds.

good-fellow appearance of the slips of dirty paper sometimes made use of, or the nice point of difference between what the Duke calls his "legable" hand, and that which it is to be presumed even he would have considered *il* "legable." On the whole they form a singular contrast with the neat precision of the other state papers with which they are associated, and it will be observed from the autograph, that they have less the appearance of being written by an educated man of *that* period than by an uneducated person of later days. In his letters and memorials of the reign of James I, Lord Hailes published a few of these letters, altering the spelling, and, with a modesty which the present Editor has not felt himself inclined to follow, omitting some of the more expressive terms. Some have also been published in Lord Hardwicke's extensive collection as to the Spanish match.* As there are some slight differences, these do not appear to have been copied from the collection of Lord Hailes; and although the Editor mentions in general that the whole of his papers on the subject of the Spanish Match are from the Harleian Collection, it will appear from a few petty mistakes, pointed out in the notes to this opusculum, that the few of Lord Hardwicke's, which are the same with those in the Balfour Collection, are taken from inaccurate copies. Some of the letters

* In Hailes' alone, have been published, Nos. 3, 6, 15, and 22.—by Hardwicke alone, No. 10, and in both, Nos. 4, 8, 9, 16, 17, and 25.

published by Lord Hardwicke are very curious, but there is reason to suppose that many of the most singular and characteristic passages are omitted. The following, from the notes to Kennett's Collection, is the history of the correspondence betwixt James and Buckingham, as preserved in the British Museum. The description is characteristic of the Letters here printed, and no less so the specimen.

“ There are in all six bundles of these letters, most of them mark'd with King Charles I. his hand, some few with Archbishop Laud's, if I mistake not the character, and the rest with a hand I remember not to have seen before.

“ In the first bundle there are twelve of King James's letters, and two of the Queen of Bohemia's, to the Duke of Buckingham. In the second bundle there are fourteen letters of King James to the Prince and Buckingham jointly. In the third there is one letter of King James to the Prince, and two of the Prince's to him. In the fourth there are ten letters of King Charles I. to Buckingham, eight of them when he was Prince, and two when he was King; together with two of Queen Anne's to the same Duke. The fifth bundle contains seven letters of the Duke of Buckingham to King James. And the sixth nine letters of the Prince and Buckingham jointly to him.

“ All these are original letters, and the whole of their own handwriting. How they came into Arch-

bishop Laud's hands I know not; but they were among the rest of his papers seized by Prinne, by virtue of an order of the then House of Commons, and continued in his hands till the Restoration, when all Archbishop Laud's books and papers were ordered by the King in Council to be delivered to Dr. Sheldon, afterwards Archbishop of Canterbury; and after Archbishop Sheldon's death they fell into the hands of his executors.

“ It looks strange that Prinne, in all his virulent writings, should never take notice of these letters, considering that, as he wanted not inclination to bespatter the memory of King James, so he had sufficient matter in them to feed his humour, there being expressions in some of these letters from King James to Buckingham which might make a bawd blush to repeat. But I have been credibly told they were found among a heap of waste paper, when Archbishop Sheldon had them from Prinne, and so probably it was they escaped Prinne's notice all the time they were in his possession.

“ The letters that passed between the King and Buckingham are wrote in a peculiar style of familiarity, the King for the most part calling him his *Dear Child and Gossip*, and *his Dear Child and Gossip Steiny*, and subscribing himself *his Dear Dad*, and sometimes *his Dear Dad and Stewart*; and once, when he sends him partridges, *his Dear Dad and Purveyor*. Buckingham calls the King for the most

part *Dear Dad and Gossip*, and sometimes *Dear Dad, Gossip, and Stewart*, and subscribes always, *Your Majesty's most humble Slave and Dog, Steiny*.

“ The Prince's letters, both to the King and Buckingham, are of another style, and much more manly sense. Those of his and *Buckingham*, jointly to the King from *Madrid*, are all of *Buckingham's* hand ; and upon the top the King is called ‘ *Dear Dad and Gossip*,’ the Prince signing beneath on the right hand, *Your Majesty's most obedient Son and most humble Servant* ; and *Buckingham* on the left, *Your Majesty's most humble Slave and Dog, Steiny*. The Prince, in his letters to *Buckingham*, calls him always *Steiny*, and signs *Your constant faithful Friend*.

“ Not to blot this paper with the bawdy that is in some of these letters of King James, I shall only observe, that such was the familiarity and friendship between him and Buckingham, that in one of them he tells Buckingham, *he wears Steiny's picture under his waistcoat, next his heart* ; and in another, *he bids him, his only sweet and dear child, hasten to him to Birely that night, that his white teeth may shine upon him*.

“ But the reader may better judge of the rest of King James's familiar letters to the Duke of Buckingham by the following short one, which runs thus *verbatim*, and is without date :—

‘ My only Sweet and Dear Child,

Blessing, blessing, blessing, on the heart’s roots, and all thine, this Thursday morning. Here is great store of game, as they say, partridges and stoncor-leurs : I know who shall get their part of them : And here is the finest company of young hounds that ever was seen. God bless the sweet master of my harriers, that made them to be so well kept all summer ; I mean Tom Badger. I assure myself thou will punctually observe the dyet and journey. I sett thee down in my first letter from Theobalds. God bless thee, and sweet Kate, and Mall, to the comfort of

Thy Dear Dad,

JAMES R.

“ *P.S.*—Let my last compliment settle in thy heart, till we may have a sweet and comfortable meeting, which God send, and give thee grace to bid the drogues [d——d rogues?] adieu this day.”*

* Wilson *apud* Kennet, II, 697.

APPENDIX.

I.

JOHN DIGBYE, (AFTERWARDS EARL OF BRISTOL),
TO —————

MY very good Lord, I here inclosed send unto yo^r Lop. the Latine Letter w^h his Ma^{ty} is to send to the King of Spayne, and likewise the præamble, w^h is to be before the articles of the marriage, desiring your Lop. to shew them unto his Ma^{ty}, that he may see yf they be to his good liking, or yf he will please to alter any thing in them. If your Lop. do not come this day unto the Spanish Ambassador, I conceive you may come upon Wednesday, and goe back againe time enough to Greenwich to keep St George's even, and I do assure yo^r Lop. it wil be of greate importance for his Ma^{tyes} service, that there be as litle time lost as may be ; for, till his Ma^{tyes} pleasure be knowne concerning these particulars, the Ambassador cannot sett himself to the making of his dispatch ; and, therefore, I do beseeche yo^r Lop. to move his Ma^{ty} to peruse the inclosed, and to send them back w^h as much speed as may be ; so not having where-with at the present to give yo^r Lop. further trouble, w^h the remembrance of my humble service unto yo^r

Lop, I recommend you to God's holy protection,
and remayne,

Yo^r Lo^{ps}. humble Servant,
J. DIGBYE.

Whitehall, the 25th
of April 1620.

II.

SIR WALTER ASTON* TO KING JAMES I.

May it please y^r Ma^{tie},

From y^e Prince his High^s and my Lo. Marques Buckingham, I presume y^r Ma^{tie} will now be advertised of their safe arrivall here on y^e 7th of this month, st. vet. I shall, therefore, only add, y^t ther hath neyther appeared in y^e Prince nor my Lo. any indisposition after so long a voyage, nor so much as wearines. Yesterday my Lo. Marques had private audience wth this King, and was mett in a place near

* Sir Walter Aston of Tixall had the Order of the Bath conferred on him at the Coronation of James I, and was created a Baronet of England in 1611. He accompanied the Earl of Bristol on his mission to Madrid in 1620. He was created a Peer of Scotland by Charles First in 1627, with the title Lord Aston and Baron of Forfar, in return, as the patent stated, for his services in Spain. His rising in honour, as Bristol, his superior in the Embassy, who had acted with much integrity, fell, renders the nature of his services questionable.

y^e Palace, w^{ch} they call y^e Park, by y^e Conde of Olivares, who came into y^e coach unto my Lo., and spent an houre wth him,—my Lo. of Bristol and my self beeing a wittnes of as much, proffessed by y^e Conde unto my Lo. Marques, in esteeme of this hor doun them, and of ther resolution, as much as in them lyeth, to deserve itt, as could be exprest in words. My Lo. was after conveighed unto y^e King's presence, and hath both from his M^{tie} and y^e Conde, receaved extraordinary satisfaction; nevertheless, howsoever, he hath receaved for thus far, as much content as he could expect, yet I find his respects such unto y^r Ma^{tie}, as he hath often already passionately wished himself wth y^r Ma^{tie}. Wth my continuall prayers to God for y^r Ma^{ties} long life and health, I rest

Y^r Ma^{ties} most humble Servant and Subject,

WA. ASTON.

Mad^d 9th of March 1622,

St. Vet.

III.

THE EARL OF BRISTOL TO MR. SECRETARY CALVERT.*

Upon the 27th of March, I wrote unto you by one Mons^r de la Feuer, a servaunt of my Lo. of

* Many of the circumstances stated in this Letter will be found narrated with slight ornamental variations in "two Royall Enter-

Andover, who was dispatched from home in dilligence through France, and gave unto you an accompt of what had passed till that day, w^{ch} was the first day of a Parlam^t, held here in the King's Pallace, at the w^{ch} he himself was present in the morneing, and, after dinner, he rann doune to his Hieghnes, and tooke him up into his oune lodgings, where they spent part of that afternoone in convarsacion, and in beholding divers mⁿ of defence, who played at severall wapans before them.

The next day, being Fryday, in the morning, the Prince was trobled wth the toothach; but causinge the tooth to be drawne, he found present ease, and the rest of the morninge spent at his studie. After dinner, he exercised himself a while in a garden adjoining to his lodgings; and, about 4 or 5 of the clocke, he was by the Conde of Olivares conducted to a window in the Pallace, where he saw divers fencers play; and from thence, he went to the King's armorie, where, amongst manie others, w^h were both rich and curious, he sawe the armes of the Emperor Charles the 5th, and Francis the First of France.

tainments lately given to the most illustrious Prince Charles, Prince of Great Britain, by the High and Mighty Philip the forth, King of Spaine, at the Feasts of Easter and Pentecost, translated out of the Spanish originals, printed at Madrid, London 1623," reprinted in Nichols's Progresses of King James VI. 856. In the same Work, (IV, 818), is a reprint of a Tract published in 1623, giving an account of the reception of the Prince and Duke on the 7th March, and continuing an account of their proceedings to the 18th of that Month.

The 29th of this moneth was the King's birth-day, w^{ch} caused much bravery and gallanterie in the Court, and, in the morning, his H^{nes} sent me to the Kinge, to give him the *en hora buena*, as likewise to the Queene, and to the Infanta, to congratulate with them, as is the stile of this Court; that the Kinge did on this day *complir años*. This day, my Lo. Marquis had his first audience of the Infanta, who receaved him, and those that went wth him, wth much courtesie. In the eveninge, the Kinge havinge with him the Queene, the Infanta, Don Carlos, and the Infante Cardinall, and attended on by the whole Court, went in a solempne manner to visit a Monasterie of the Descalses, in which liveth the Infanta Dona Margarita, daughter of the Emperor Maximilian, and great ant to this Kinge; and his Hines went privatly in a coach, in w^{ch} were with him, my Lo. Marquis, my Lo. of Carlisle, Sir Walter Aston, myself, and the Conde of Monterey, by whom he was conducted in such manner as at their going thither; and returning, hee sawe them pass by in four severall places.

The next day, being Palme Sunday, the King and all the Court passed through some parts of the Pallace in a solempne and publick procession, the w^{ch} his Hynes likewis beheld from a secrett place. In the afternoone, the King and the Prince mett, to see the fencinge again, wth w^{ch} they intertayned themselves some time; and, this day, the Prince gave 1000£, w^{ch} hee com-

manded to be bestowed in the holy weeke in almes upon prisonners, and other poor people of this toun, w^{ch} hath bine much esteemed here, and done his H^{nes} much hono^r wth all sorts of people.

On Monday, the Genoa Ambassador, with all the *hombres de negocios* of that state w^{ch} were in this toun, came and kissed his H^{nes} hands. The rest of the day hee spent in reading of Spanish, and in private.

Upon the 1 of Aprill, the Prince having wth him my Lo. Marquis. my Lo. of Carlysle, myself, and the rest of the English noblemen that are here, went abroad towards the Pardo, to see my hawkes flye, where was present likewise the Marquis of Orane, brother to the Duke of Pastrana, whose place of *Halconiro maior* hee supplieth duringe his absence, and had with him all the King's hawkes, w^{ch} are made especially for the kite and the crow. But the day proving for the most part windie, and unfitt to hawke in, his H^{nes} went to hunt, at w^{ch} he had much good sport, and killed some wild bores. In the evening, as he retorned, hee was mett upon the way by the Conde of Olivares and the Conde of Monterey, who waited on him to the Pallace, where, as soone as hee lighted, he found Peeter Killegrew newly come to this toun, by whom I receaved yo^r l^{res} of the 9 of March.

The next day, being Wednesday, in the holy weeke, the publick and solempne exercises of devo-

tion began, and the procession and *disciplinantes*, which everie year doe usually passe through the streetes, pass likewise, as the custom is, close by the Pallace, soe that the Prince beheld them out of his oune chamber windowe. That day, his H^{nes} stirred not abroad, but, about the eveninge he was visited by the Conde of Olivares from the Kinge.

On Thursday, his H^{nes} went privately and sawe the Kinge wash the feete of the poore, and performe other ceremonies usuallie done that day; and, in the afternoone, there passed by his H^{nes} window a greater procession than had don the day before.

Good Fryday was spent by this Kinge in hearing sermons, and in devocion; and, towards the evening, when the great procession was to pass by, the Conde of Olivares, the Conde of Monterey, and others of the Councill of State, came to the Prince's lodgings, and attended him all the time it was passing by; and, afterwards, his H^{nes} went downe to walke in the garden.

Saturday, the Prince spent all the morninge in private at his studies, and, in the afternoone, his Hieghness desiringe to give unto the Kinge the *buenas pascuas*, as the use is here, hee could not bee permitted. But towards the eveninge, the King, accompanied wth Don Carlos and the Infant Cardinall, came doune into the Prince's lodgings, and gave him the *buenas pascuas* where they sate, and discoursed a good while.

The next day, being Easterday, in the morninge, the Prince sent to desire leave to repay the visit and the *buenas pascuas* he had received the day before, and was accordingly appointed, about 4 o'clock in the afternoone, to bee brought up by a privatt way unto the Kinge, wth whome, when hee had been a short space, and performed that complem^t, he intimated a desire to doe the like to the Queene, and was presently conducted by the Kinge, who accompanied him publickly, attended by all the *Grandes* and great Ministers of the Court, from his owne syde to the Queen's, w^{ch} is on the other syde of the Palace, and there he found the Queene and the Infanta togeather, attended by all the Ladies of the Court. This beinge the first time that his H^{oes} had personally visited the Infanta, there were 4 chaires sett, in the two middlemost sate the Queene and the Infanta; on the right hand of the Queene sate the Prince, and on the leaft hand of them all sate the Kinge. When the Prince had given the Queene the *buenas pascuas*, and passed some other complem^t of gratitude for the favours hee had reseaved from her since his comeing to this Court, in w^{ch} it pleased his High. to call me to doe him service as interpretor;* he rose

* The Tract above-mentioned states, that the office of Interpreter was performed by "the English Ambassador in Ordinary," and in the reprint by Nichols, the name "Sir Walter Aston" is filled in. From the above, it appears to have been Bristol.

out of his chaire, and went towards the Infanta, who likewise rose up to entertaine him ; and after fittinge courtesies on both sydes performed, the Prince told her, that the great friendshipp w^{ch} was betwixt his Catholick Ma^{tie} and the Kinge his father, had brought him to this Court, to make a personall acknowledgement thereof, and to assure, for his part, the desire he had to continue and increase the same ; and that hee was verie gladd of this occasion to kisse her High. hands, and to offer her his service. To w^{ch} the Infanta answered, that shee did highly esteeme what the Prince had sayd unto her. His High. then told her, that hee had been trobled to understand, that of late shee had not had perfect health, and asked her how shee had passed the Lent, and how shee now did. Whereunto, the Infanta answered, *que queda buena, a seruicio de su Alt^a*. The Prince then retired himself to his chaire, and sate doune againe by the Queene, wth whom hee passed some short complem^{ts}, and soe they all rose, and, with much courtesie, tooke their leaves. And I doe assure you, that in all thinges, the Prince his comport^{mt} was so naturall and sutable to his qualitie and greatnes, that hee hath given just cause to the Spaniards to admire him, as I find they generally doe. From hence, he was conducted by the Kinge in the same equipage that hee had come thether, unto the King's syde, where, when the King had entertayned his High. a while wth beholdinge from a window, of certaine maisters and

gentlemen that exercised fencing before them, the Kinge had him to another window, w^{ch} looketh upon a large place before the court gate, and telling the Prince that he would only goe and see the Queene, tooke his brother Don Carlos wth him, and leaft the Infante Cardinall wth the Prince, expecteing his retorne. But before much time had passed, there appeared about three score of the principall nobillitie of the kingdome, in the place before the window who were very richly apparelled wth embroderies, and being on horseback, ran twoe together their severall carriers. They had all their faces discovered save only the Kinge and Don Carlos, the Conde of Olivares, and the Marquis of Carpio, who had vizards. And this is the accompt, &c.

Titled on the back, "a Copie of a L^{re} from the Earle of Bristoll, out of Spaine, to Mr. Secr. Calvert, April 8, 1623."

IV.

A PAPER, TITLED ON THE BACK, "COPIE OF THE K. OF SPAINE'S LETTER TO THE CONDE OF OLIVARES,—NOVEMBER 1622."

The Kinge my father declared at his death, that his intent was not to marry my sister the Infanta

Donia Maria with the Prince of Wales, w^{ch} yo^r uncle Don Balthasar understood, and so treated the mater ever with an intention to delay it. Notwth-standinge, it was soe farr advanced, considering well the euerness [egerness?] unto it of the Infanta, it is time to looke some means to diverte the treaty, w^{ch} I would have you finde out, and I will make it good, whatsoever it bee; but, in all other things, procure the satisfaction of the Kinge of Great Britt. who hath deserved very much, and it shall content me, so it be not in the match.

V.

COPY OF A LETTER WRITTEN BY THE ARCHBISHOP OF
GRANADA TO THE CONDE DE OLIVARES, TOUCHING
THE KING OF SPAINE'S WALKING BY NIGHT.*

My Lord,

I have alwayes been a friend to yo^r Lopp. and as such a one, and as Tutor unto o^r master the King,

* The two following papers have no farther connection with the Spanish match than this, that being Spanish papers of that period, and ranked among documents directly connected with the match, they seem evidently to have been procured for some purpose regarding it, which it would be difficult to ascertain. In such circumstances the Editor, viewing them as curious documents, a better opportunity of editing which might not soon occur, has printed them with the others. Along with the former paper, (if it is genuine,)

I shall be bolde, wth truthe and playnesse, to tell that w^{ch} I heare and observe, hoping that yo^r Lopp. will not condemne mee for it, being for his Ma^s. good, and for your benefitt likewise. I beseech yo^r Lopp. very earnestly divert the Kinge from his night-walking, and consider how greate a part of the blame lyes upon you ; the people publishing it every where that you keepe him copany, and are grieved to see that the hopes w^h they had at the beginning of his government succeed so ill ; for the truth is, where much is expected, there is alwayes feare and jealousy, and in very deede this is no fitting delight (call it an enter-taynment if you will,) in respect of the many circumstances wh^{ch} make it hurtfull, and the occasion w^{ch} people doo take to talke of it, and to observe some undecencies in it w^{ch} become not a King. And although there were no other harme in it, the example of it is extreme ill in him who ought to give so good examples, and to remember well how his father, at the time of his death, afflicted himselfe for faults of

they shew, from the minute facts obtained regarding the Spanish Court, that the British Ambassadors matched the secret agency, of which they complained so much on the part of the Spaniards. The Letters are, internally, curious specimens of zeal, bigotted probably, but honest, on the one hand ; and on the other, of the haughty obstinacy, tinged with great and liberal views, which characterised the government of Olivares, who, if he was in this case entitled to assume the tone of lofty innocence of the accusation, was very liable indeed to the general reproach of ministering to his master's pleasures.

omission w^{ch} must needs bee if he will give place unto such faults of comission.

I beseech yo^r Lopp. consider it well, and that by how much the greater tallent God hath given you, by so much the stricter will yo^r accompt bee. And I doe assure you, that to please the King in thinges unlawfull, is the way to lose at last yo^r oune honor and authority, and to runne the hazard both of yo^r soule and of yo^r worldly estate. I pray your Lop. beleieve me and prevent it in tyme, not by such wayes and meanes as humane wisdome shall teache you, but by endeavouring to please God, and to be thankfull unto him for the greate favors and benefitts w^{ch} you have received at his hands, duly observing and keeping his holy lawes, putting the King our Master allwayes in remembrance thereof, and guiding him in the waye of truthe. Remember your vertuous mother whome Sixtus Quintus had wont allwayes to call the holy comtessa, and of your noble father, and continue in the steppes of their vertues wth workes worthy of the place you hold, w^{ch} shall be both for yo^r oune good and for the good of his Ma^{ty}. kingdomes. God keep your Lopp. &c.

GRANADA, 28 August 1621.

VI.

THE ANSWER OF THE CONDE DE OLIVARES UNTO THE
ARCHBISHOP OF GRANADA.

I doe very highly esteeme the greate zeale yo^r Lopp. shewes in yo^r late letter, and I received it as a greate favor, gyving your Lopp. infinite thanks for yo^r good admonitions being very holy and pious, howsoever they bee not seasonable; for if it be true w^{ch} yo^r Lopp. hath been enformed, who would resolve in this case to lay aside the obligations w^{ch} hee hath unto God, and not amend upon the advises of a man; and if it be false, yo^r Lopp. sees how much reason you have to be sorry for the creditt you have given it. But as to the matter whereof you write, I pray your Lopp. to believe that I serve the Kinge in such sort as I have no wish to settle myselfe in his Ma^{ty} favor w^{ch} distracting both his wayes and mine owne, and whensoever I shall determine to give over the care of doing that w^{ch} is not onely simply but exemplarily good, I should find out sinnes that would be more profitable to my house. But my ambition is grounded only in the virtues of y^e Kinge, and in the glory of his actions.

Yo^r Lopp. hath beleaved, and the malcontents have reported, that w^{ch} were most easy to doe for a kinge of xvi years of age, and a servant of foure and thirty, who not finding any true imputation whereupon to

ground their malice, they have taken that for certeyne w^{ch} seemed easy and probable. It is most true, that if his Mat^y goe abroad in the night, I am to waite upon him, because hee doth not conceive that any other will serve him wth more love, nor wth more loyalty. And for my part I never heard that the law of God was broken, in that a young king, who is to govern all, did not live obscure and retired without the knowledge of any thing; neyther should I make any scruple to have him sometymes abroad in a decent manner, for informing himselfe by his owne eyes of many thinges, that yf hee should not see them at some times, would come unto his eares wrested and misshapen. His grandfather began to knowe the world betimes, and so became a greate kinge, and his father, whose omissions yo^r Lopp. accuseth, although hee were so vertuous and good a prince, yet his education being in a kind of retirement, it befell him that hee would not live without another. But for my part, seeing I doe not desire his Ma^{t^y} only for my selfe, but for all men else, I would not that he should be ignorant of so greate a world as hee hath to governe, and, therefore, shall never move him to keepe w^{thin}, whensoever I see him inclined to goe abroad, wth that temper and moderation w^{ch} becomes his person; for w^{thout} that, I neyther beleieve that himselfe would attempt it, nor durst I advise him, because I knowe that yo^r Lopp. left him so well instructed, that, ever after, it was dangerous to perswade him to

any thing that was unlawfull. Neyther hath hee at any time varied from those noble principles imprinted in him at the beginning, nor deceived the great hope w^{ch} was had of him, for that every day hee increaseth in valour more than in age; nor was his father at his age more excellent in all vertues than this young prince: how much more is it to be esteemed in him. And I doe much marvaile that yo^r Lopp. should hold the sinns of commission to be greater in a kinge than those of omission, the first being his vice as hee is a man, and only against himselfe: the second as hee is a king, and, therefore, hurtfull to all.

Yo^r Lopp. may doe well to observe whether he comit any errors in government; for I shall bee very sorry if the world dyd not beleewe that, even in the least occasions, I desired, not to have him not onely good, but even the best, that ever was in the world. And his Ma^{ty}, (whome God preserve,) so carrieth himselfe, that he makes all men admire and comend him, without any neede at all to be hellped with the instruction of others; for that his oune superexcellent naturall understandinge is such, as wee, that are about him, cannot justly take unto ourselves the glory of any his resolutions. And as it concerned no man so much as y^r Lopp. to be sorry for any of his Ma^{ty} faults, and to endeavor the reformation thereof by yo^r wise and reverend advises, so had no man more reason to be slowe in beleiving them, having brought

him upp, and discovered in him so many tokens of a glorious Prince, and knowinge me w'thall that I was not borne to so short a fortune as to trust it upon that w^{ch} would not at all times bee for mine honor; for I doe more value that w^{ch} I may meritt at God's hands in the place where I am, then that w^{ch} the Kinge can give me. And although I should not find in my ancestors the cause w^{ch} yo^r Lopp. mentioneth, to oblige me to be an honest man, I finde in my selfe obligation enough to bee so.

Admonitions w^{ch} precede the thinge that is feared, and doe afterwards governe the successe, I doe reverence them, from whome soever they come; but when a reprehention anticipates the fault, it might happely not be received so kindly as I receive this from yo^r Lopp.; because I know yo^r vertue, yo^r learning, and understanding. But I beseech yo^r Lopp. tell mee whether you have knowne any ministers lesse obnoxious to the common wealth, or *complaints better cheape than at this time.** The care of his Ma^{ty} and of us that serve him, is, that his rewards and his punishments be just,—that his navyes and his armyes be well provided,—his kingdomes well fortified,—his armes to keep their reputation, and his treasure to be managed sincearly, and without fraude.

* On the margin, *quexas mas baratas que las deste tiempo.*

That there is somewhat perhappes amisse, I doe not deny it; for it were a vaine presumption for any man to hope to doe all things as they should be. But I assure y^r Lopp. in acknowledge^{mt} of the favor w^{ch} I have received by this yo^r letter, that I am sorry there is nothinge w^{ch} it should cause me to amend for if there were, w^{thout} doubt, I should presently doe it, as well for that it is reason, as to obey yo^r Lopp., whome God many yeares preserve. From Madrid, the third of September 1621.

EL CONDE DE OLIVARES.

LETTERS

OF THE

DUKE AND DUCHESS OF BUCKINGHAM.

I.

THE DUKE OF BUCKINGHAM TO KING JAMES I.*

Dear Dad and Gossope,

THOUGH I ame yett but weake, and though it may offend you, as it doth my secretarie, yett, in despite of you both, I must have leave now and then to write with my one hand. I ame verie sorie for this new vaine you have taken of lousing of stags, but ame much rejoyced that you attribute so much to my goode lucke, as to thinke, if I were there, your ill fortune would alter ; for which caus, to pleas you, and manie more to please myselfe, I will make all the hast my weaknes will give me leave. I thanke God my grudgings have left me againe, but the hines of my urine, with the yallownes of my skin, betokens a yellow janders, which will be no greate matter to

* The Letters of the Duke to King James are all addressed "To the best of Masters."

cure, if it prove so. I must end with this paper, for I protest I am faintish, which is another betokener of that dres I spoke of; but before I end, I must beseech you to present my humblest service to your sweete babie Charles; and so I crave your blessing.

Your Maty. humble Slave and Doge,

STEENIE.

II.

THE SAME TO THE SAME.

Dear Dad and Gossope,

The best show of trew repentance of a falt is to make a trew confession. I did forgett to give thanks for my melons, grapes, peches, and all the things els you sent. I must pas my account under that general terme, or els I shall make the same falt againe, by leaveing out something, your favors were so manie; but wher was this falt committed at that time, my thoughts was most imployed in your service, therefore, may be the eselie pardoned; but what can you say for your falt? did you not promis not to write, and can you denie but brech of promis is a great falt, and so much the greater, that you resolve to double them, for Kitt tells me you resolve to doe the same againe to-morrow morneing. I confes your faults are favors, therefore the more pardonable from him to

whom they are committed ; and if you should not sometimes fall into them, I should fere I had my sefe made one. What can be done then ? if you write, I fere you are troubled ; if you should not, sometimes, then I should be troubled. To reconcile all, lett it be thus,—right not verie often, and when you write, lett itt [be] verie little, I should say short ; for the least stamp from your pen is a blessing to him that now craves it as your

May. mot. humble Slave and Dog,

STEENIE.

III.

THE SAME TO THE SAME.

Dear Dad and Gossopo,

Yesterday wee gott hether so erlie, that I had time to see over a good part of my workes here ; this afternone I will see the rest. I protest to God, the cheifest plesure I have in them is, that I hope they will pleas you, and that they have all comed by and from you. I ame now goeing to give my Redemer thanks for my Maker ; the afternone I will spend in vewing the rest ; to-morow the Cunts* threaten to be erlie

* That James made use of the same brief, but certainly classical expression, is evident, from the impressive silence of the Transcriber of the following :—“ Alas ! Sweetheart, I find by this how precise

up, being of my mind, impatient to be with you. Wee shall have nede of a coch of yours, and Babie Charles, to make the way short,*—I could write to the Queries to send them to Thurlo, seven miles on this side Newmarket; but I will be behoulden to none but my kind master and pourvior, who never failed me when I had neede; therefore, now bestir thee, and doe thy dutie. I will give no thanks for nothing till I may doe it on my knees, so I crave your blessing as your

Maty. most humble Slave and Doge,

STINIE.

thou art to keep thy word to me, when thou prefers it to thy own greatest comfort in coming to me: God reward thee for it, but I must quarrel thee, that though in both my former letters I prayed thee to bring the with thee, thou hast not so much as sent me word whether they can come or not. I would gladly have them here, but howe'er it be, fail not to be here thyself to-morrow before supper time."

King James to the Duke of Buckingham, Hard. St. P. I, 458.

* "Happy is he can get a kinswoman, it is the next way to a thriving office, or new swelling title. The King, that never much cared for women, had his Court swarming with the Marquesses kindred, so that little ones would dance up and down the privy lodgings like Pharies; and it was no small sap would maintain all these suckers."

Wilson apud Kennet II, 727.

IV.

THE SAME TO THE SAME.

Dere Dad and Gossope,

In one of your letters you have commanded me to right shortlie and merelie. I shall ever, and in all things, obey you. I humbly thanke you for makeing your commands easie to be abaide in thees tow particulars, and so you preserve the last, so still, the first bath bine so riveted with what is past, that no time to come can alter it. How can I but right merelie, when he is so I love best and beyond all the world. I shall love the pour fellows face the better for it while I live, for relating it with such joy, and for my righting short; why should I ever right otherwise, when all I can say must be short of what I should say and doe; you have so infenitelie obliged me, therefore I will, nay, I must be shorte. I have left of fisicke. I will waite of you by the day appoynted. I had Jenyngs with me about Tiball Parke, all is well there, and goes on bravelie, and so is your babie Charles, whom I hope to waite of doune. This inclosed will give you an account of the Dunkerker ships; by this little paper you will understand a sute of hue Holland's,* by this other parchment a sute of

* Hardwicke makes this 'a suit of fine Hollands.'

my Lord Presidents; of all doe but what you please,
so you give me your blessing, which I must never be
denied, since I can never be other than

Your Maty. most humble Slave and Doge,

STEENIE.

I have forgotten to write my legable hand in this
letter, forgive me.

V.

THE SAME TO THE SAME.

Dere Dad and Gossopo,

I have bine the longer in writing, that I might
send you certain word, when I should be able to waite
of you. I fear before Wensday I shall not be able
to get out of this beselie (bestlie) toun. All the ple-
sure I have in it is, when I think how well you have
gott to Royston. I hope your next will asseure me
of the like to New Markett.* I hate myselfe for
forgetting to crave a blessing. I humbly thanke you

* "However the King abated nothing of his pleasure and dissolute
life, but according to the usual methods of his life, in the autumn
went to Newmarket, to divert himself with hunting, from the trou-
ble of affairs, either foreign or domestic, leaving his favourite Buck-
ingham dictator of all his affairs, when the parliament met again."—

Coke's Detection, I. 117.

for chiding me that I asked none, and lett not him be so punished as to be now refused a double one, who craves it with double bended kneenes, but a single intire, humble, and cherefull well contented hart, and so I crave your blessing againe, becaus you are not werie of giveing to him thats your Maty.

Most humble Slave and Doge,

STINIE.

All is well with Kate and Mall. I have playde six setts att maue with Sir John Ayres, and trewlie its a verie hard mach. What shall I doe then with him that eats could custerd with bungelers?

VI.

THE SAME TO THE SAME.

Dear Dad and Gossope,

I shall make you wonder att a resolution I have taken never to inquier more after your helth; you can bare me wittnes, that I have never given credit to those that undertake to have the felosifers stone, espetiallie when they becom takers themselvs, as my divill hath now proved him self. If he bloe as profitablelie with all the world besides as he hath done with me, he will have little neede of the felosephers stone; yett if all be trew, he hath assewred to me, I

shall thinke my four hundered pound well bestoed. I confess so longe as he conceled the means he wrought by, I dispised all he said, but when he tould me that which he hath given your sowverainship to preserve you from all sicknes, evere hereafter, was extracted out of a towrd, I admired the fellow, and for thees resons, that being a stranger to you, yett he had found out the kind you are come of, and your naturall affections and apetit, and so, like a skillfull man, hath given you naturall fisicke, which is the onelie meanes to preserve the radicall hmer (humour) and thus I conclude my son is helthfull, and my divills luckie, my selfe is happie, and neds no more than your blessing, which is my trew felosophers stone, upon which I build as on a rock.

Your Mat. most humble Slave and Doge,

STINIE.

Here is a gentle man cauld Sir Frances Leake, who hath likewis a foulosephers stone, its worth but aight thowsand, he will give it me, if you will make him a Baron. I will, if you command not the contrairie, have his patent redie for you to sine when I come doune, he is of good religion, well borne, and hath a good estate. I pray you burne this letter.

VII.

THE SAME TO THE SAME.

Dere Dad and Gossope,

I have sent this metteld post, to be an eye wittnes of your second days hunting, if want of sleepe will give him leave, haveing undertaken to ride all night, to hunt you with you all day, and be with me before supper backe againe, so that werines doe not prevent him. I here you have gott a good stumake since your being there, but I fere your liberalitie doth not give you leave to eate a good bitt, being well acquainted with that ould custome of yours of ever giving away the best; wee both have fed of nothing els, and though they have all proved fatt and tender, yet not being eten at your sansie luckie table, they wanted that sauce which makes all saverie. Lett this berer bringe me news of your helth and merth, and then I crave no more but your blessing for

Your Maty. most humble slave and Doge,

STEENIE.

VIII.

THE SAME TO THE SAME.

Dere Dad and Gossopo,

Though I have reseed three or four letters from you since that I writt last to you, yett, as Thom. Bagger says, I ame not behind hand with you, for I have made a hundred answers to them in my minde, yett none that could satisfie my minde, for kinder letters never servant reseed from master, and for so great a Kinge to desend so loe, as to his humblest slave and servant to communicate himself in a stile of such good fellowship, with expressions of more care than servants have of master, then fesitions have of their patients, which hath largelie appered to me in sicknes and in helth; of more tendernes then fathers have of children; of more frendship then between equals, of more affection then between lovers in the best kind, man and wife; what can I return? nothing but silence; for, if I speake, I must be sausie, and say thus, or short of what is due my pourvier,—my good fellow, my phesition, my maker, my frend, my father, my all, I hartelie and humblie thanke you for all you doe, and all I have. Judge what unequall langage this is in it selfe, but espeti-allie consideringe the thinge that must speak it, and

the person to whome it must be spoken. Now, tell me whether I have not done discreetlie to be silent all this while, it's time I should be soe againe, or else commit a falt, in wering him that never weries to doe me good; then thus I'll end,—I beginne my journie to-morrow. I shall have the Prince to waite of. We shall lie at Theobal's, the one will hunt hinds and does, the other survaie the trees, walkes, ponds, and dere; the next day after laye ourselves at your feet, there crave your blessing, then give an account of Theobas Parke to the best of man, though not of the kynd of man yett made by man, more then man, like a man, both arteficiall man, and my most naturall souveraine, who, by innumerable favors, hath made me,

Your Mat. both humble slave and doge,

STINIE.

IX.

THE SAME TO THE SAME.

Dere Dad and Gossope,

As necessetie inforces me, instede of repareing to you according to your command, and my promis, to goe manie miles from you another way, and, consequentlie from myselfe, all my perfect joys and pleasures cheeflie, nay, solie consisting in attending your person, so me thinkes dutie and good manners com-

mands me on the other part, to give you an account under my one hand, though it be yett somthing unstedie and weeake; but before I give the reasons of the change of my former resolution, there is a thinge not much in exercise now in this world called thankfullnes, that caulls so fast and earnestlie upon me, that I must first, though I have allredie done it by the assistance of a yonge nobleman could Babie Charles. whome you likewise, by your good offises, made my frend, whome, without all dout, hath alredie perfectlier made my thanks then I shall myselfe, yet having the pen in my hand, I must needs tell you what I observe in your late absent and publicke favor, but antiant manner of obligeing your poure unworthie servant; wherby I finde you still one and the same dere and indulgent master you were ever to me, never being contented to overvalue and love me yourself, but to labor all maner of ways to make the whole worlde doe soe tow; besides, this assewres me you trust me as absolutelie as ever, largelie exprest in this, that you have no consete of my popularitie, otherwis whie should you thus study to indere me with the upper and loer House of Parlement, and so, consequentlie, with your whole kingdome; all and the least I can say is this, that I naturallie so love your person, and upon so good experience and knowledge adore all your other parts, which are more than ever one man had, that were notonelie all your people, but all the world besides, sett together no one side, and

you alone on the other, I should, to obey and please you, displeas, nay, dispise all them, and this shall be ever my popularitie.* Give me leave here to use your one proverbe, for this the Divill cone me thanks, the resons of my going to Newhall are these :—First, I find busines and the sight of busie folkes does me much harme, and though your extreordinary care and watchfull eie over me would keepe them from speaking with me, yett, in a Court, I must needs louke manie of theme in the face. Then Thebal's hous is now verie hot, and hath bit few chang of romes, both inconvenient to a sick bodie ; then my Lord of Warwicke tells me, that by experience he hath found Newhall are as good a one to ride away an ague as anie in England, and that latelie he lost one by the benefit of that are, I mene nere hand, which, I thinke, will be all one. By this time, I fere I have troubled you, and were it not that I write to you, I ame sure I should have wried myselfe. I have now onelie one request to you, as you first planted me in your Babie Charleses good opinion, if you thinke it fitt for

* James was enabled to test the truth of these protestations in his latter days, when the 'power amassed by the favourite, through the friendship of the prince,—an assumption of popular politics,—and the possession of a train of dependants, compelled the Monarch unwillingly to continue that familiarity, for which Buckingham was so very grateful, while it continued to advance him in influence.

your service, in my absence continue me in it, and so give me your blessing.

Your Maty. most humble Slave and Doge,

STEENIE.

X.

THE SAME TO THE SAME.

Dere Dad and Gossope,

Becauss the sence and thankfulnes of my hart, for your excellent mellons, payres, sugard beanes, and assewrance of better freute planted in your bosome then ever grew in paradise, will best appere in my humble obedience of your commands, I thought it fittest to delay the answeere of your kinde letter till I might give you a full account of all it containd. By this time I hope Mr. Secretarie hath tould you I mistouke not the Imbassador but be his one language ; but before I could dispatch with him, the day was so far spent, that night accompanied me into Newhall. But this morning I have first agreed with Mr. Genings, whoe is the fittest man we could have chosen for this busines, and hath assewred me that what is projected, I dare not say in this, but as in all other things resolved of till you say content, will be sone done esie, chepe, and without hindering dere sow or man of free passage. The particulars I re-

serve till I may demonstrate it upon the map or place, but in the meane time Mr. Genings will be prepareing the ground, the trees and all other necessarie things, so that there shall be no time lost till you be acquainted with all, and pleased with it. Now for my one parke. I have found this morneing another fine woud that must in with the rest, and tow hunder acres of meddows, with broume closes and plentifull springs rnnning through them, so that I hope Newhall Parke shall be nothing inferior to Burlie. My stags are all lustie, my caulfe bauld, and others are so tow, my Spanish coultis are fatt, and so is my joviall fillie. Mall, Greate Mall, Kate, Sue, and Stenie, shall all waite of you on Saterdag, and kis both James and Chriles (Charleses) feete. To conclude, let this paper assewre you, that the last words I spoke to you are so trew, that I will not only give my word, sware you the holie evangile, but take the blessed sacrement upon them. So craving your blessing, I rest

Your Maty. most humble Slave and Doge,

STINIE.

Babie Charles, I kiss thie wartie hands.

XI.

THE DUKE AND DUCHESS OF BUCKINGHAM TO KING
JAMES I.

Dere Dad and Gossope,

Though you comanded me to right no answer, yett, sences I should not a sleept well this night except I had don it; I hope you will excuse my disobaying of you at this time. I have bine the longer a doing of it, because I might send you the certaner nuse of my health, which at this tim is so good, what with your swett cordiall and my seasonable drawing of blude, that I hope to-moroe to wayt of you a perfect man. I hope you will not be put to much payns to reede this hand, sences you have receved so many love letters from her who joynes with me in humble thanks for your kines and care of us both. So, craving your blesing, we end

Your Ma.^{ty}: most humble Slaves,

KATE. STINE.

XII.

THE DUKE OF BUCKINGHAM TO _____*

Sire,

Je n'entreprins pas, prenant l'ocasion de me servir du digne subject du recit des merites de Monsi^{eu}ur L'Embassadeur lesquelles deux mesmes sens enprunt luig donnent lustre et splendeur, pour par iceulx Sire, représenter a votre Majesté le zelle ardent de mon humble servisse, car ces generosites[sic] affections, (non seulement a votr. servisse ains a votr. personne), sont J'a imprimees au pages Royalles des recognoissances de sa Mayte. comme le deveoir m'oblige a ne sauhaitter aultre felicitte, toutes fois je le fais expres de faict a vis, pour me donner la gloire que les actions de Monsieur L'Embassadeur me temoignent m'appartenir, considerant que le bon heur m'a este si favorable qu'il m'a une fois servy de secretaire, que

* To what crowned head this has been addressed, the Editor cannot determine. Although he rendered himself offensive at Madrid for his familiarity, Buckingham certainly would not have addressed the solemn Monarch of Spain in a tone of so much familiarity and reckless banter; nor in the case of his dear dad and gossip is it likely that he would have troubled himself with writing, or his correspondent with reading, a Foreign tongue. It was, perhaps, addressed to the young King of France, when Buckingham sent to the French Court to grace the nuptials of Charles with Henrietta, chose to make love to the Queen.

maintenant, je dois poursuivre ma victoire et pour n'aller en enpirant, le Babtiser du Tiltre de Postillion, quy portant ces virtus incomparables luy seront des loyers et des Lauriers en tout temps, et affin de n'esgarer du sentier de la verité que j'avois commence en ces lignes, quy ne tendent qu' a tracer et sa gloire et mon affection, je me plains que je n'auray l'heur a l'arrivé de ces deux cavaliers de leur tenir les estri-viers comme Laquay : puissent ils en la presence des felitieuses desbonnairetes de votr. Majte. recevoir la recognoissance que leurs signallees vertus leurs doivent, quy les feront tousiours recognoistre dignes de leurs charges.

Et me feront a bouche close confesser que puis que mon apsence né me permet de leur rendre servisse que la gloire ne m'en apartient pas, sy ce nest que leurs nobles vertus m'en rendent capables, et me fassent don de ce Tiltre heureux et honorable, ce quy m'acroissera d'aultant plus l'asseurance que je me pouray nommer du plus comblé et fortunné nom

Destre de vostre Majesté

Le tres humble et tres fidelle Esclave,

G. BUCKINGHAM.

XIII.

THE DUCHESS OF BUCKINGHAM TO KING JAMES.

May it please your Ma^{ty}.,

My Lord hath commanded me to give your Mati. humble thanks for the payns you tooke to send him word of your removes under your one hand; he likewise much rejoyes at the sesonablnes of the wether, hoping the next day's hunting will be more honer to your Matie. hounds, and contentment to your self, than the last. He beseeches your Matie. to send him word how you speede, and wherer your ablenes to ride continues answerable to the former day, which nuse will be the best cordialle your Mati. can send him in his sicknes. My Lord's grudgings ar but small, he ganes strenth upon them, and is all day longe as stering in his parks heare, as your Mati. is at any tim in your park of Tiballs, thus, with your Maties. leve sences, my Lord craves a blesing, I crave on to for myself and littel Malle. So I end

Your Ma^{ty}. most humble servant,

K. BUCKINGHAM.

For his Matie.

XIV.

THE SAME TO THE SAME.

May it plesse your Ma^{ty}.

Your gracious favours to me ar so infinit, that I can never expres my thankfullnes to your Mati. for them in words, which, though I cannot do it that way, yett there is non has a thankfuller heart to your Mati. than my self, and besids your command, that I should be merey, I have a great dell of cause to be so, to see how ferme your Mati. affection is to my Lord now in his absens, it tis a great comfort to me to see it, and that your Mati. care is as great of him now as' ever it was, and at this time he is much bound to your Mati. that you have bine plesed to gett him this to thousand pounds, and I will not fayle to lett my Lord know of it in my next letters to him, this humbly kising your Mati. hands, I take my leve.*

Your Ma^{ty}. most humble sarvant,

K. BUCKINGHAM.

For his Ma^{ty}.

* " And my sweet Steenie gossip, I must tell thee, that Kate was a little sick within these four or five days of a headache, and the next morning, after a little casting, was well again. I hope it is a good sign, that I shall shortly be a gossip over again, for I must be thy

XV.

THE SAME TO THE SAME.

May it pleas your Ma^{ty}.

I have receved the too boxex of drid ploms and graps, and the box of uiollatt caks, and chickens, for all which I most humbly thanke your Ma^{ty}. I hope my Lord Anan has tould your Ma^{ty}. that I ded mean to wene Mall very shortly. I wood not by any mens adon it, till I had furst mad your Ma^{ty}. acquainted with it, and by reason my cuzen Brets boy has binne ill of latt, for fere shee should greeve and spyle her mylke, maks me very desiorous to wene her, and I thinke shee is ould eneufe, and I hope will endure her wening very well, for I thinke there was never child card les for the brest then shee dos, so I do entend to make trial this night how shee will endure it; this day praying for your Ma^{ty}. health and longe life; I humbly take my leve, your Ma^{ty}. most humbell sarvant.

K. BUCKINGHAM.

For his Matie.

perpetual gossip, but the poor fool Kate hath, by importunity, gotten leave of me to send thee both her rich chains; and this is now the eighth letter I have written to my two boys, and six to Kate." *James to Charles and Buckingham, Hard. St. Pap. I. 412.*

XVI.

THE DUKE OF BUCKINGHAM TO KING JAMES.

Dere dad and Gossope,

Though I writt last night, yett I thinke it not amis to ade one word more to express myself more particularlie. My Lord Maxwell is arived, and hath asseured me, having had it out of the Pope's one mouth, that the dispensation is granted free and unclodge: he farther ads, that after he had in a ruff maner spoke with the Nuntio at Paris, in so much that a tould him he would complayne of him presentlie in a letter to his holines, he answered him caumlie thus and with some expression of fere, that he should doe it; that if he would but have a little pasience, he should quicklie see through the busines, and have no caus to complayne. All this I have tould; *fiat*,* but under the rose; I likewis tould him you reproched to me, where is your glorius mache with France, and your Royall Franke Monsieure? I tould him allso, I had order to sett a short day for assembling of the Parlement, and that you had commanded me, if the Spanich agent came to visit me, that I should, upon payne of your desplesure, not

* Lord Hailes makes *fiat*, 'd'effiat,' and Hardwicke makes it a proper name, without giving any account of M. Fiat, who was probably a peremptory gentleman.

onely use him siuellie, but kindlie. He answered me impatientlie and confusedlie, what? cannot one make a triall of gaineing of better and more advantagus conditions without an intention to breake; whereupon I told him I did not thinke the did intend to breake, nay, that I did not thinke there [was] one occation, besides the ties of honor and honestie, would give them leave; but I was sorie and asshamed, that so unseasonable, after all things was performed to ther desier, nay, more then they could have imagined, wittnes the assistance of shipping, the hartie professions of my master, as well by letter as those verball complements he sent by Monsieur La Riviere, and now att the time when acknowledgements at the least, if not requitalls, sould a comd with greedie gloutenus appeties to seeke to surfett on the forbidden tree, can reseave no cleanlier an interpretation, then to have comd from an unresonable, unjust, false, and unmanelie appessie (appetite), and thus, you have ended, *avec bone bouche*, but I thought in my mind, shetten mouths, I pray you ser doe not kiss that word, nor bewray for want of bold and absolut language a good busines. I ended with Monsieur thus, your master acknowledges he hath allredie the substance of what he desiers, though I know the contrairie, the Pope is to reseave satisfaction, not from my master, but yours, now then lett everie man act his one naturall proper part. Spayne must reallie be cosened, lett the Pope doe that, since he can as

well pardon himself as all the world; the Pope semeingly must be cosened, lett France doe that, who hath the title of the most Christian Kinge, and so may the eselier obtaine a pardon; my master will neither be cosened nor cosen, wherefore the most Christian King must most conscionable undertake to his holines for as much as may cosen Spayne, France, and Rome, who may not for their union be cauled the Father, the sone, and the holie gost. Sr. I will werie your patience with one word more, if you pleas, treat as little as may be, and roundlie lett the Imbassador know you so much prise your honor, that neyther in a cercomstance nor forme, will you make anie alteration, and sett your Imbassadors a settled short peremptorie day for an answer. If it prove good, I shall be as sone redie to goe from hence as it can be to com hither; if ill, then lett your Imbassadors as speedelie com away, for never admitt of new journies to Rome, neyther doth it neede. I will end with Mal's complement to me;—Lord, Father I love you well,—Lord, Father I will die for you, so I crave your blessing, as

You Maty. most humble Slave and Doge,

STEENIE.

XVII.

THE SAME TO THE SAME.

Dere Dad and Gossope,

I doe not know what falt I have made of late, that you should take so crewell a revenge of me as to put me in the fere your last but one letter did. I ame tow fare behind hand to lett the quarell rest so, though, in your last, you made a proposition full of affectioun, if I may call it by so sausie a name. You are now in the place I love, therefore, for that respect, I will now forbere you; but when you are of of that ground, look to your selfe. I hope to have the hapines to-morow to kiss your hands, therefore I will not send you the letter you writt to the Pope, which I have gott from Secretaire Colvert. When he delivered it me, he made this request, that he hoped your Maty. would as well trust him in the letter you were now to write, as you had here-tofore in the former. I did what I could to dissemble it, but when there was no means to doe it, I thought best to seeme to trust him absolutelie, thereby the better to tie him to secreisie.* If this be a lie, as I am sure

* Secretary Calvert was an agent of the Court of Rome. Wilson terms him "an Hispaniolized Papist," (705) and finds an in-

it is, then you may beginne to thinke that, with a little more studie, I may crie quittance; so I crave your blessing.

Your Maty. most humble Slave and Dg.

STINIE.

A million of thanks for your good mellons and peres.

XVIII.

THE SAME TO THE SAME.

Dere Dad and Gossope,

The caus of my troubling you so soone with a letter, is, that there is a jelosie raised in the loer hows, how that yeet the tou treties are not absolutely broken of. The Prince, Hameleton, Pembroke, Lancaster, and myself, who have all seene your dispache to the Kyng of Spayne, thinkes, if that was shoed to them, that it would fullie content them. Wee al likewise thinke, there is nothings in it but what they may well see; and, becaus on Tuesday they pass the Bills of Subsedie, I thinke it will not be amiss it be red to them, which, if your Maty. like and allow of, I will caull for it of the Secretarie, and to-morrow

stance of the judicious Kingcraft of James in "matching" him with the strenuously Protestant Sir Robert Nauton, "like contrary elements, to find a medium betwixt them."

morneing reede it to them ; so craveing your blessing,
I kiss your durtie hands and end.

Your Matie. most humble Slave and Doge,
STINIE.*

XIX.

THE SAME TO THE SAME.

Dere Dad and Gossope,

To bee short, I send you as manie thanks for the good news of your helth, as you sent me blessings. I commend loveing babie Charles desier to louse no time in fixeing som thinge on his Mistris, in which he shoes his intent is honorable ; I likewise thinke your Maty. hath yeilded to reson in giveing way to it, but if you will at my request lett him send the anker jewell with Thom Caire, you may doe me a greater plesure than the stones are worth,† for to tell

* This letter was probably written during the sitting of the Parliament called on the 12th February 1623, when Buckingham having in a bad humour put an end to the match which he had endangered the safety of the country to further, assumed popularity in Parliament by representing the integrity and acuteness with which he had foiled the artifices of Spain, and his undeviating support of the Protestant religion.

† “ For my Baby’s presenting his mistress, I send him an old double cross of Lorrain, not so rich as ancient, and yet not contemptible for the value ; a good looking glass with my picture in

the treuth, if he should send a lesser value than the Ducke of Savoy's sone did in the same place, it would expose you both to meane censures. To conclude, I reserved this day in one paper a gift, in another blessings and good-wishes, and by a message a promise ever to be the honest old master to me. If I should say I will also be the same servant to you, it would be but a verie unequall return, for what I am hath bin your act, but my acts backe againe make

it, to be hung at her girdle, which ye must tell her ye have caused it so to be enchanted by art magic, as whensoever she shall be pleased to look in it, she shall see the fairest Lady that either her brother or your father's dominions can afford : ye shall present her with two pair long diamonds set like an *anchor*, and a fair pendant diamond hanging at them ; ye shall give her a goodly rope of pearls ; ye shall give her a carquant or collar, thirteen great balls rubies, and thirteen knots or conquests of pearls, and ye shall give her a head-dressing of two and twenty great pear pearls, and ye shall give her three goodly peak pendants diamonds, whereof the biggest to be worn at a needle on the midst of her forehead, and one in every ear, * * * as for thee, my sweet Gossip, I send thee a fair table diamond, which I would once have given thee before, if thou would have taken it, for wearing in thy hat, or where thou pleases ; and if my Baby will spare thee the two long diamonds in form of an anchor, with the pendant diamond, it were fit for an admiral to wear, and he hath enough better jewels for his mistress, though he's of thine own thy good old jewel, thy three Pindars diamonds, the picture-case I gave Kate, and the great diamond chain I gave her, who would have sent thee the least pin she had, if I had not staid her."

James to Charles and the Duke of Buckingham.—Hard. St. Pap. I. 406.

me implore God's helpe to make me a new servant ;
then might I hope before I die to be reconed by you
according to my ambition, amongst or in the fore
ranke of your thankefull, and not onelie as your fa-
vors alone makes me your beloved servant,

Your Maty. Slave and Doge,

STINIE.

XX.

THE SAME TO THE SAME.

Dere Dad and Gossope,

I have esed you of the importunitie of the Im-
bassador, but have thought it fitt to send this jen-
tleman to reseave your one directions. I shall take
the bouldness to stay here till his returne, wherefore,
and for the busines sake, I pray you lett it be speedie,
and my opinion is, the playner and directer you make
your answere and demand, the clerer and soner you
will see through this busines, where in there hath
bine but tow much time lost allredie. : I spent some
time in Theobald's parke to day, and though it was
enough to give directions, yet not to satisfie my
longeing and desier to stay longer, it is grone so
butifull allredie, with the alteration allreadie made.

Thus loath to hould you longer then needs, I crave
your blessing, as

Your Maty. most humble Slave and Doge,

STEENIE.

XXI.

THE SAME TO THE SAME.

Dere Dad and Gossope,

I have bine so busie to intertaine the French Im-
bassador and the Grave Judge, that I have not had
time to take such order about my parke as will give
you satisfaction; wherefore, not dareing to louke you
in the face till I had made some use of my journie, I
have taken the bouldnes to stay one day longer then
I had leave to doe, and treuly the Imbassador was
so late in takeing his leave, that thouth I should have
attempted the performance of my promis, hardlie
should I a bine able to a compassed it, especiallie after
a hartie takeing my leave of my wife. This last excus
I hope will pleade pardon, and obtaine it of Babie
Charles, and the former of your selfe, in confidence
of which, I will be merrie here to night, and to-
morrow, longe before supper, reseave that which now
I bege, your blessing.

Your Matie. most humble Slave and Doge,

STINIE.

Kate gives you manie humble thanks for all your favors, mine I reserve till I have the happines to see you. Kate begins to make use of Mal's tongue, for she had made Mall so importunate with me to stay, that if necessetie had not commanded me, hardlie could I a refused her.

XXII.

THE SAME TO THE SAME.

Dere Dad and Gossope,

I did hope to have gott out of towne to-morrow, but by reson of new discoveries my brother hath made of witchcraft, I am forsed to crave leave to stay till Monday or Tusday, otherways, by leaveing him in the midst of his troubles, I should give him tow just caus to thinke I cared no more for him then to serve my turnes of him. I confess there is yett tow much to doe concerning my preparations for France, and God forbid I should by my neglect make that longer in doing which hath bine allredie tow longe undone, the mariage of the Prince. The want of monies in your Exchequer, makes me now want the hapines to wait of you, for as yett I have not reseaved one pennie, but of this Ile trouble you no more; it being now

redie, as I ame, ever to reseave your blessing, which now I crave, as your Maty.

Most humble Slave and Doge,

STINIE.

Both Kate, Mall, and I, humblie thanke the good man and pourveior for his present of all kinds.

XXIII.

THE SAME TO THE SAME.

Dere Dad and Gossope,

Yesterday came a post from Monsieur Ville aux-Clercs,* to tell me that I might part when I would. I have returned this answare, that though I should be glad for my one particular, with the sonest to kis his Maj^y hands, who had so much obliged me, yett

* " Henry-Auguste de Lominie, Chevalier, Seigneur de la Ville-aux-Clercs, Comte de Brienne et de Montberon, Baron de Pougy et de Boussac, Secretaire d'Etat, fut purvu de la charge, de Prevot et Maitre des Ceremonies des Ordres du Roi, sur la demission de Francois Pot, Seigneur du Magnet et de Rhodes, le 22 Mars 1619. Il Donna sa demission en 1621, en faveur de son cousin, fut nommé Chevalier du Saint Esprit, mourut le 5 Novembre 1666, sans avoir été regu, etans agé de 71 ans." *Anselme, Histoire Genealogique* IX, 312, &c. But the correspondent of Buckingham was probably the Father of this person, mentioned in the Genealogy as ' Antoine de ' Lomenie, Seigneur de la Ville-aux-Clercs, Secretaire d'Etat.'

it would not sute with my master's occations to have me longe absent, but so sone as word would come that all treaties was att an end, and that things was prepared and redie for a speedie conclusion, then I would make that hast thether, that they sould see there should be no time lost on our side. I have sent you a Proclamation for the puting of of the Parliament; my Lord Keeper and Mr. Attornie thought it fittest to have it draune in generall termes, I have sent you likwis a warrant to be sined for the deliverie of the twentie thousand pounds for my journie into France.

I fere I shall not be able to waite of you before the end of this weeke, but I would gladlie knowe whether it would offend you or not, if I brought the cunts with me. I'le end in hast, becaus I will lous no time to prepare and dispach all these things which hinder me from being with you, so I crave your blessing.

Your Maty. most humble Slave and Doge,

STINE.

Larkins sayes the dispensation is not yett comd, but certainlie on the way.

XXIV.

THE SAME TO THE SAME.

Dere Dad and Gossope,

I have not yett bine able to acquaint the Imbassador with what you have found in your bouke, becaus I received your letter when I was comd from hime, but before I shall be able to see you, I shall have done it, for what with the ranie wether, my late coming last night, and this day's longe treateing with him in the garding, I have such a swelling in my throute, and such a noys in my hed, that I can neyther swallow nor here well, wherefore I shall be forced for my helth, if your service will permitt me, to take a little fisick. The fisitions tells me this is the sesonablest time, but my desier to waite of you with the plesure of the seson, tells me it is the most unfitt of all others. But necessitie hath no choyse, yett I comfort myselfe with this, that what I take now will warrant me for a longe time. I here send you a coppie of the Capusines propositions with the Kinge of France, far wors, in my opinion, than those he made here to yourselfe; you will likwis finde an answeare made by the Cardinall and that Counseill, moderate in there opinions, but, in my opinion, ill enough. If your Maty. pleas to send Mr. Secretarie hether, and Parker, for all my indisposition I shall

be able to ese you there, and hasten the dispatch which hath bine tow longe allredie in goeing ; it rest that I acquainte you of my wyfe's your humble servant's helth, which is resonable good, and so end with craving your blessing.

Your Maty. most humble Slave and Doge,
STEENIE.

I kiss Sweet Babe Charles hands.

XXV.

THE SAME TO THE SAME.

Dere Dad and Gossope,

I have sent Watt Montague this morneing into France, with the coppie of those things you resolved of with the French ambassador, that our ambassadors may no more complayne for want of timelie advertisements : the Spanish agent will be with me before I can have well ended this letter. Gundemar's man was with me this morning.* The discours I had

* Gondemar, the Spanish ambassador, was considered at one time almost the rival of Buckingham in the estimation of the King,—“ The King took delight to talk with him, for he was full of conceits, and would speake false Latine, on purpose, in his merry fits, to please the King ; telling the King plainly, he spoke Latin like a pendant, but I speak it like a gentleman.” He rendered himself

with him I am sure will not onely be pleasing to you, but make you laugh. The most part of the morneing I spent with the French imbassador, and yett could not make an ende, wherefore he hath earnestlie intreated me to stay this day in toune, as likewise to see the dispatch he will send into France. He makes no question of an answer from thence answerable to your hart's desier. I confess I beleve it, and the rather becaus I know they dare do no otherwis, and I am sure you now begine to laugh in your sleve to see your self so courted of all sids, and that all these actions turns to your advantage. Dere Dad, since I can not com to-night, lett this hastie letter give thanks for that trew, favorable, and most affectionate interprétation of my staying here, and God never releve me when I have most need of it, if it be not a separateing of myself when I am from you, and in lew of haveing comfort and my heart ese by you, to serve you, I give myself nothing but trouble and vexation. To morow, without fail, I will waite of you, and if it be possible, bring the cunts with me; in the

amusing and influential in England, by his antiquated but substantial gallantry. "And in these times there were some ladies, pretending to be wits (as they call them), or had fair nieces or daughters, which drew great resort to their houses; and where company meet, the discourse is commonly of the times, (for every man will event his passion); these ladies he sweetened with presents, that they might allay such as were too sower in their expression, to stop them in the course, if they ran on too fast, and bring them to a gentler pace."

Wilson ap. Kennet, II. 726.

meantime, for much take a little, which is my humble thankes for not onelie clothinge my outside, but fillinge my in, and with such presious bits as was onelie fitt for you, but will prosper the better when you ade this, I humble crave your blessing,

As your Ma^y. most humble Slave and Doge,

STINIE.

XXVI.

THE DUKE OF BUCKINGHAM TO VISCOUNT ANNAN.*

My Lord,

If I should fill this paper, I could but give you thankes, but not enow to satisfie myselfe for your constant kindnes to me, therefore lett thees few lines doe as much, nay, as little, since all must com short. I have shoed your letter to the Prince, which could best speak your hart to him. He takes your remembrance of him verie kindlie. All the news I can send you from hence is, our busines now marches out of the Spanish pa' and so shall wee to when its dispatched, till we throw oure selves at our dere dad's feet, when that is done we will make you know we are travillers, but in our harts never stran-

* Previously Sir John Murray of the Bed-Chamber.

gers. I pray you, remember my humble service to my lady your wife, and hould me

Your faithful Frend and Servant,

G. BUCKINGHAM.

To the Right H^{ble}. my good Lord
ye Lo. of Anhan.

XXVII.

THE SAME TO THE SAME.

My Good Lord,

I cannot forbear now to acquaint yr. Lor^d. how that I have observed here, by several waies and circumstances, that the Spanish Embassadors in England doe come to the notice and discoverie of many thinges, which ought to be kept secret, and they have given intelligencies hither of some advertisements, wch. must arise by an insight into his Ma^{ties}. L^{res} w^{ch}. went from hence. Wherefore I praie you, (seeing how convenient yt is, and important for the service of his Ma^{tie}.) to be very watchful therewith, and cercumspect to prevent any such like betraying, for the Marquess de Ynojosa wil be very busie by bribes to p^{re}vent any one that maye leane that waie, the wch. yr. Lor^d. will be pleased to take into yr. consideration.*

* "Cottington arrived here the fifth of this month, late at night, whose coming, we hoped, would have made a great alteration to the

Yt. wil be no newse to tel yr. Lor^p. that the Prince is now upon the poynt of his returne for England, the daie being set doune to be for his departure from home, the 29th of this present month, for as, (god-willing) wee ar alike to be wth. you ere longe, wherefore I shall not troble yr. Lor^p. any farther at present, but wth the remembrance of my Love unto you, remaine

Your Lor^p. faithfull Frend and Servant,

G. BUCKINGHAM.

Madrid, ye 20th of Augt. 1623, .

St. vet.

Ld. Annan.

better in our business ; but we find that they here believe the Marquis Inoyosa's Intelligence better than all your Majesty's real proceedings ; but we beseech you to take no notice to the Marquis of Inoyosa of his juggling, (for he has written hither contrary to his professions) until we wait upon you, * * * Sir, we have been informed by my Lord of Bristol, that by the French Ambassador's means, the Spanish Ambassador has seen all the Letters that we have written to you, and that you are betrayed in your bed-chamber."—*Prince Charles to King James, 20th August, 1653.—Hardwicke I. 448.*

EDINBURGH :
PRINTED BY ALEX. LAWRIE & CO. ,
BANK STREET.

1) Henry James to xxx

My onlie sweete and deare chyld, notwithstanding of your desyring me not to wrytte yesterdaye, yett hadde I written in the evening, if at my coming in out of the park such a drowze had not come upon me as I was forced to sitte and sleep in my chaire halfe an houre; and yett I cannot contente myselfe withoute sending you this pullet, praying God that I may have a joyfull and comfortable meeting with you and that we may make at this Christmas a new marriage, ever to be kept hereafter for God so love me as I desyre once to live in this worlde for your sake and that I hadde rather live banished in anye point of the earth with you, then live a sorrowfull widdowes life without you; and so God blese you, my sweete chyld and wyfe, and graunte that ye may ever be a comforte to your deere laide and husbande.

1625.

James R.

The King had written Maister, which seems to imply that this letter was written to the Duke.
Orig. Hol. Tan. 1xxv. - p. 18.

Goodman's Court of St. James. Vol. 2. 1





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